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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

25X1X

25X1C SUBJECT Telephone and Postal Censorship in
the Soviet Zone of Germany

1. In December 1949, a delegation headed by Georg Handke, Minister of Foreign Trade of the D.D.R., visited Moscow to negotiate a commercial treaty and at the same time to expedite delivery of certain commodities previously ordered from the U.S.S.R.
2. During the course of the negotiations, Handke contacted Mrs Grete Wittkowsky, chief of the central planning office in the Ministry of Planning of the D.D.R., by telephone and asked whether it was correct that the U.S.S.R. had agreed to deliver 60 telephone monitoring devices. Mrs. Wittkowsky told Handke that an order for the delivery of 60 such devices had been arranged with the Soviet Control Commission and requested that expeditious delivery be urged.
3. The items, which were the most modern type band recorders, were delivered on 15 March 1950. They were installed in all government telephone exchanges, including that of the Magistrate of East Berlin, as well as exchanges in the Soviet Sector of Berlin, such as those of Berlin-Pankow.
4. Long distance telephone conversations in the Soviet Zone of Germany are being monitored at all telephone exchanges, including those of East Berlin. Responses by the MGB monitoring center in Magdeburg.
5. In early 1950, Walter Ulbricht, Minister in the Soviet Consulate in the Soviet Zone of Germany, informed Hermann [REDACTED] Secretary in the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications, that postal censorship had to be continued for political reasons. Schroeder had complained to the Government that the postal censorship interfered with expeditious delivery of the mail. He stated that the post offices deliver all postal communications to Soviet and German censorship offices where approximately one-third of the letters are opened and checked by specialists before the mail is returned to the post offices. Schroeder recommended that the process be simplified by making the post offices themselves responsible for spot checking the mail.

CLASSIFICATION ~~SECRET~~

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✓ 6. Special  ers, whose mail is to be subjected to classification to the postal censorship offices. Included on these lists are all persons living in the Soviet Zone of Germany who carry on correspondence in any volume with individuals in the Western Zones of Germany.

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